Pullman Kuching Hotel Pools, East Malaysia
Project Spotlight: May 2011

LOCATION:
Pullman Kuching Hotel & Resort
Sarawak, East Malaysia

LATICRETE WATERPROOFING:
Buildmate Trading (S) Sdn Bhd
Sarawak, East Malaysia

TILE CONTRACTOR:
Technicorps Builders Sdn Bhd
Sarawak, East Malaysia

LATICRETE SUPPLIER:
LATICRETE Southeast Asia

TILE SUPPLIER:
Agrob Buchtal
Germany
Five-Star Pullman Hotel Pools in East Malaysia use Five-Star LATICRETE Products

By Eric Carson

LATICRETE has earned a global reputation as the leading manufacturer of materials and methods for tiled swimming pool installations. In fact, two of the most high-profile swimming pools in the world of late have been completed using LATICRETE® products.

In Beijing, the Water Cube pools for the 2008 Summer Games that witnessed U.S. Swimmer Michael Phelps make history were installed with LATICRETE materials. And in a different, yet equally captivating application, LATICRETE Southeast Asia supplied the ideal specification and materials for the 150 meter (491 foot) infinity-edge pool that stretches across all three 55-story skyscraper hotels at the new Marina Bay Sands® Singapore.

Recently, this impressive list continued to grow with the specification of LATICRETE products for another high-level swimming pool at the luxurious Pullman Kuching hotel in East Malaysia. Pullman Hotels & Resorts represents the posh, five-star brand of the Accor Group, where international business travelers and guests have come to expect the very best in lavish amenities.

The Pullman Kuching, set in the heart of East Malaysia’s largest city, had to live up to these expectations of quality and perfectly execute the 600m² (6,458 sq.ft.) swimming pool installation. The Kuching pool design uses a brick-stacked pattern in soft, alternating solid color tiles on the bottom of the pool in 11x22cm (4.5” x 9”) Agrob Buchtal tiles that blend in perfectly with the natural surroundings.

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Most of the guests at Pullman Hotels & Resorts on Borneo Island will find themselves migrating to the beautiful tiled pool and sundeck designed by Kumpulan Design. The main pool and children’s pool accented by jacuzzi spas and hot tubs highlight an impressive exterior landscape at the Pullman Kuching. The selection of the full system of LATICRETE products for the installation will ensure the water features’ performance and beauty for a long, long time.

“We have full confidence in using the LATICRETE system of products because of the quality and reliability, and the full technical and product support provided by LATICRETE Southeast Asia,” said John Wong, the project manager at Buildmate Trading, a building products distributor and specialty-waterproofing contractor. “The product range makes us a confident member of the team and does the same for the architects, consultants and contractors. As of right now, we have not received any complaints or failures using the LATICRETE system of products and many installations have already outlived the project warranty.”

The Pullman Kuching is located at the center of the “Golden Triangle,” down close to the waterfront and entertainment district of Sarawak, its most populous city. The new luxury hotel rests high on Jalan Mathies hill with panoramic views of city center and the Sarawak River. Kuching dominates northwestern Borneo Island with close to one million residents in city proper alone.

The specification of LATICRETE tile and stone installation products for the five-star Pullman Kuching certainly didn’t happen by accident. For decades LATICRETE has continued to advance the industry by developing world-class installation products for tile, stone, glass and glass mosaic tile pools. LATICRETE has years of experience and success in tiled swimming pool installations and has earned its well-deserved place at the forefront of manufacturing innovative waterproofing membranes.

It all began way back in 1963, when just seven years after creating the first latex-fortified thin-set adhesive mortar, LATICRETE introduced the very first self-curing liquid rubber polymer that’s reinforced by fabric to form a flexible, seamless waterproofing membrane over virtually any substrate. LATICRETE® 9235 Waterproofing Membrane is a thin, load-bearing waterproofing and anti-fracture membrane that’s liquid applied with a paint roller or brush. LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane has set the standard for decades as the waterproofing and anti-fracture membrane recognized around the world for providing superior substrate protection in wet areas or continuous submersion applications. When LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane cures, it meets all ANSI A118.10 and ANSI A118.12 requirements for bond strength. The IAPMO and ICC approved waterproofing membrane protects the installation from water damage, mold and mildew with Microban®, as well as substrate cracks up to the industry standard of 3mm (1/8”).
The oversized main pool and smaller children’s version at the Pullman Kuching had concrete and gunite shells that took the first coats of LATICRETE® 9235 Waterproofing Membrane applied by Buildmate Trading (S) Sdn Bhd. The interesting pool design installation relied on Buildmate Trading’s expertise in waterproofing membrane installations, while also benefiting from the expert craftsmanship turned in by the tile contractor crew from Technicorps Builders Sdn Bhd in Kuching. The tile installation by Technicorps Builders resulted in an offset patterned design on the bottom of the pool, created with gorgeous tiles manufactured by Agrob Buchtal from Germany. The Agrob Buchtal tiles are in a 11x22cm (4.5” x 9”) rectangular format and come in a series of 40 different colors. For the Pullman Kuching main pool and children’s pool, Wong, Buildmate’s project manager, worked closely with the team at LATICRETE Southeast Asia and Technicorps Builders on the jobsite. Buildmate began as an importer and distributor of building and construction materials but has grown to take on specialized contract work for waterproofing projects.

“The team we have at Buildmate has all been trained to understand the LATICRETE system,” said Wong. “For each project we have a team leader in place to oversee the planning and coordination of the installation procedures. We work closely with the architect and tile contractor to ensure a smooth process.”

Technicorps then leveled the pool shell with LATICRETE 226 Thick Bed Mortar mixed with LATICRETE 3701 Mortar Admix. The resulting LATICRETE mortar bed, render or plaster can be used for interior and exterior applications that make shock, chemical and frost-resistant mortar beds. The quality of the LATICRETE mortar bed is bolstered by its increased bond and compressive strength, and is rated “Extra-Heavy” per TCA performance levels (ASTM C627 Robinson Floor Test).

When the latex-fortified cement mortar bed had cured, Buildmate Trading protected it with another full coat of LATICRETE 9235 Waterproofing Membrane. The large-format, rectangular shaped ceramic tiles from Agrob Buchtal were set in place with LATICRETE 4237 Latex Additive mixed with LATICRETE 211 Powder to create a high strength, 3mm (1/8”) thick latex-fortified thin-bed adhesive for the 11x22cm (4.5” x 9”) ceramic tiles in soft, alternating tropical-themed colors for the main pool at the luxury Pullman Kuching.

To complete the pools, Technicorps Builders used the revolutionary tile grout manufactured by LATICRETE. LATICRETE has developed tile grout technology to solve most every problem for installers, all while simultaneously adding design flexibility with 40 color options. LATICRETE SpectraLOCK® PRO Grout™ has finally answered installers expectations on how easy it should be to use an epoxy grout, and architects, interior designers and end-users expectations on how the finished tile grout should look and perform.

LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout is a patented, high-performance epoxy grout that offers unmatched color consistency in a stain-resistant, tough, durable and crack-resistant tile grout. Epoxy grout is much more resistant to fluctuations in pool water chemistry when compared to cement-based grouts. All of this adds up to substantial life cycle costs benefits and makes the use of LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout ideal for any submerged installations of tile. The superior performance in the end far outweighs the initial cost savings provided by selecting a more traditional cement-based grout. The epoxy grout formula includes Microban® antimicrobial protection to inhibit the growth of mold and mildew in the grout joints. LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout offers superior non-sag performance on walls and can be installed with tight, narrow grout joints with just as much success as it can in more standard widths that range from 1.5 to 12mm (1/16” to 1/2”). The epoxy tile grout is virtually impervious, which helps make it the most stain-resistant grout option available in the world. LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout provides full, flush tile grout joints that can always be cleaned back to their original color and never require sealing for the life of the installation.

“The finished look of the pool for the Pullman Kuching is absolutely beautiful,” said Wong. “The LATICRETE SpectraLOCK PRO Grout looks fabulous and flows seamlessly along with Agrob Buchtal tiles in the design. After we had completed the pool the owner was very happy with the grout, the LATICRETE installation and his beautiful new swimming pools for guests of the Pullman Kuching.”

* United States Patent No.: 6881768 (and other patents)† See Data Sheets 663.0 and 663.5 for complete product information